DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/ODC/MR
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DATE
DAVID M. BLUMBERG
President
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March 24, 1978

The President
~~The White House~~
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. President:

Your meetings this week with Prime Minister Menachem Begin unfortunately did not reconcile the fundamental differences between the American and Israeli governmental position on settlements, boundaries and the future of the Palestinians. Clearly these issues remain a part of the negotiation process between Israel and the Arabs without preconditions.

In our view, the proposal of an arms package for Saudi Arabia clearly adds another obstacle to negotiations, by confronting Israel with a greater potential threat from an unfriendly state, thus making it harder for Israel to take a risk for peace. I hope, therefore, that you will withdraw the arms offer to Saudi Arabia.

Certainly I would be remiss, Mr. President, if I did not urge you to deliver the aircraft promised to Israel after its pullback of troops from the Sinai in 1975.

And most important of all, I would hope that you will use your good offices to persuade Mr. Sadat and Mr. Begin to renew discussions at the conference table.

With all good wishes,

Sincerely,

David M. Blumberg

DMB/s